AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) An aqueous coating composition comprising:

(i) 20 to 80 wt% of a polyurethane A obtained by the reaction of:

(a) an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer formed from components comprising:

(1) 20 to 80 wt% of at least one polyisocyanate;

(2) 3 to 10 wt% of at least one isocyanate-reactive polyol of weight average molecular weight < 500 Daltons, containing at least one ionic or potentially ionic water-dispersing group;

(3) 0 to 15 wt% of at least one isocyanate-reactive polyol containing non ionic water-dispersing groups;

(4) 17 to 77 wt% of at least one isocyanate-reactive polyol other than (3) of weight average molecular weight ≥ 500 Daltons;

(5) 0 to 20 wt% of at least one isocyanate-reactive polyol other than (2) or (3) of weight average molecular weight ≤ 500 Daltons;

where (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) add up to 100%;

wherein the polyols (a)(3) to (5) have a total ring structure content ≥ 48wt%; and

(b) an active-hydrogen chain extending compound;

wherein polyurethane A has an acid value in the range of from 8 to 40 mg KOH/g and a hard segment content ≥ 40 wt% by weight of polyurethane A; and

(ii) 80 to 20 wt% of a vinyl polymer B with a glass transition temperature ≥20°C, wherein vinyl polymer B comprises vinyl monomers comprising in

total ≥ 70 wt% carbon, nitrogen and halogen based on vinyl monomer molecular weight;

wherein (i) and (ii) add up to 100 %;

which composition when in the form of a film exhibits a moisture vapour transmission rate of ≤ 500g/m^2/24h.

2. (original) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the polyol (a)(4) has a ring structure content ≥ 30 wt%.

3. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 wherein polyurethane A has a weight average molecular weight in the range of from 50,000 to 1,000,000 Daltons.

4. (canceled)

5. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the acid value of vinyl polymer B is ≤ 10 mg KOH/g polymer.

6. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 wherein the vinyl polymer B has been formed using a multistage polymerisation process to form two or more vinyl polymer phases of different compositions.

7. (original) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 6 wherein there is a difference in Tg values between at least two vinyl polymer phases of ≥ 20°C.

8. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 wherein vinyl polymer B has a weight average molecular weight in the range of from 50,000 to 6,000,000 Daltons.

9. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 wherein vinyl polymer B has been formed in the presence of polyurethane A.

10. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 further comprising a radiation curable multifunctional material.

11. (original) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 10 where the radiation curable multifunctional material is selected from the group consisting of epoxy(meth)acrylates, urethane (meth)acrylates, multifunctional (meth)acrylate monomers, uv curable urethane dispersions and amine-(meth)acrylate adducts.

12. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 which when in the form of a film exhibits a total stain resistance value to coffee, ethanol, mustard and red wine of ≥ 30.

13. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 which further comprises a pigment.

14. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 13 with a pigment volume concentration of from 10 to 35%.

15. (previously presented) An aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 which is substantially solvent free.

16. (previously presented) A process for the manufacture of an aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 which comprises the following steps:

(I) (i) reaction of components (a)(1) to (a)(5) together to form an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer;

(ii) neutralisation of the isocyanate-terminated prepolymer;

(iii) dispersion of the isocyanate-terminated prepolymer in water;

(iv) chain extension of the isocyanate-terminated prepolymer by reaction with an active-hydrogen chain extending compound to form polyurethane A; and

(II) admixture of preformed vinyl polymer B.

17. (previously presented) A process for the manufacture of an aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 which comprises the following steps:

    (I) (i) reaction of components (a)(1) to (a)(5) to form an isocyanate-terminated prepolymer;

    (ii) neutralisation of the isocyanate-terminated prepolymer;

    (iii) dispersion of the isocyanate-terminated prepolymer in water;

    (iv) chain extension of the isocyanate-terminated prepolymer by reaction with an active-hydrogen chain extending compound to form polyurethane A;

    (II) admixture of vinyl monomer followed by reaction under conditions sufficient to effect emulsion polymerisation to form vinyl polymer B.

18. (previously presented) A film obtained from an aqueous coating composition according to claim 1.

19. (previously presented) A coating obtained from an aqueous coating composition according to claim 1.

20. (previously presented) A method of coating the surfaces of a substrate comprising application of an aqueous coating composition according to claim 1 to the substrate.

21. (original) A method of coating according to claim 20 wherein the substrate is porous.

22. (original) A method of coating according to claim 20 wherein the substrate is wood.